

## AUCTION 124 YEARS AGO

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## SALE

"Having sold my farm and am leaving for Oregon territory by ox team, I will offer for public sale on March 1, 1849, all my personal property, to-wit: All my ox teams except two teams, Buck and Ben, and Tom and Jerry. Two milk cows, one gray mare and colt, 1 pair of oxen and yoke, one baby yoke; two ox carts; 1,000 feet of poplar weather boards; plow with wooden mold-boards; 800 to 1,000 feet of clapboards; 1,500 ten foot fence rails; one 60-gallon soap kettle; 85 sugar troughs, made of white ash timber; ten gallons of maple syrup; two spinning wheels; 30 pounds of mutton tallow; one large loom, made by Jerry Wilson; 300 poles; 100 split hoops; 100 empty barrels; one 32 gallon barrel of Johnson Miller whiskey, seven years old; 20 gallons of apple brandy; one 30 gallon copper still; one dozen real books; two handle hooks; 3 scythes and cradles; one dozen wooden spikes; bullet moles and poder horn; rifle made by Ben Miller; 50 gallons of soft soap; hams; bacon; lard; 40 gallons of sorghum molasses; six head of fox hounds, all soft-mouthed except one.

"At the same time I will sell my six Negro slaves, two men, 35 years and 50 years old; two boys, 12 and 18 years old; two mulatto wenches, 40 and 30 years old. We will sell all together to same party but will not separate them.

"Terms of sale—cash in hand or note to draw four per cent interest with Bob McConnell as security.

"My home is two miles south of Versailles, Kentucky, on McConn Ferry Pike. Sale will begin at 8 o'clock a.m. Plenty to drink and eat. J. L. Mess."

## School Hot-Lunch Pioneer 100 Today

By Opal Ripley

HILLTOP — A former school teacher of several areas of southern West Virginia is celebrating her 100th birthday today in the Hilltop Nursing Home.

Mrs. Portie Wilson Hamrick doesn't recall how many years she taught in the one-room schools of the southern coal fields of the state, but a daughter, Mrs. Helen England of Alderson, said she believes it was 35 to 40 years in Greenbrier, Randolph, Logan and Mingo counties.

She was one of the pioneers of school hot-lunch programs, according to Mrs. England, who told of her mother's efforts to see that children in her classes were provided with warm food at lunch.

The charming little lady now spends most of her time reading. She enjoys her Bible, is a

long-time Presbyterian and is a comic strip fan, especially "Dagwood and Blondie."

Mrs. Hamrick said of the staff at the nursing home: "They have me pretty well spoiled — I love all of the girls here."

Her husband, David Henry Hamrick, died in 1948. They

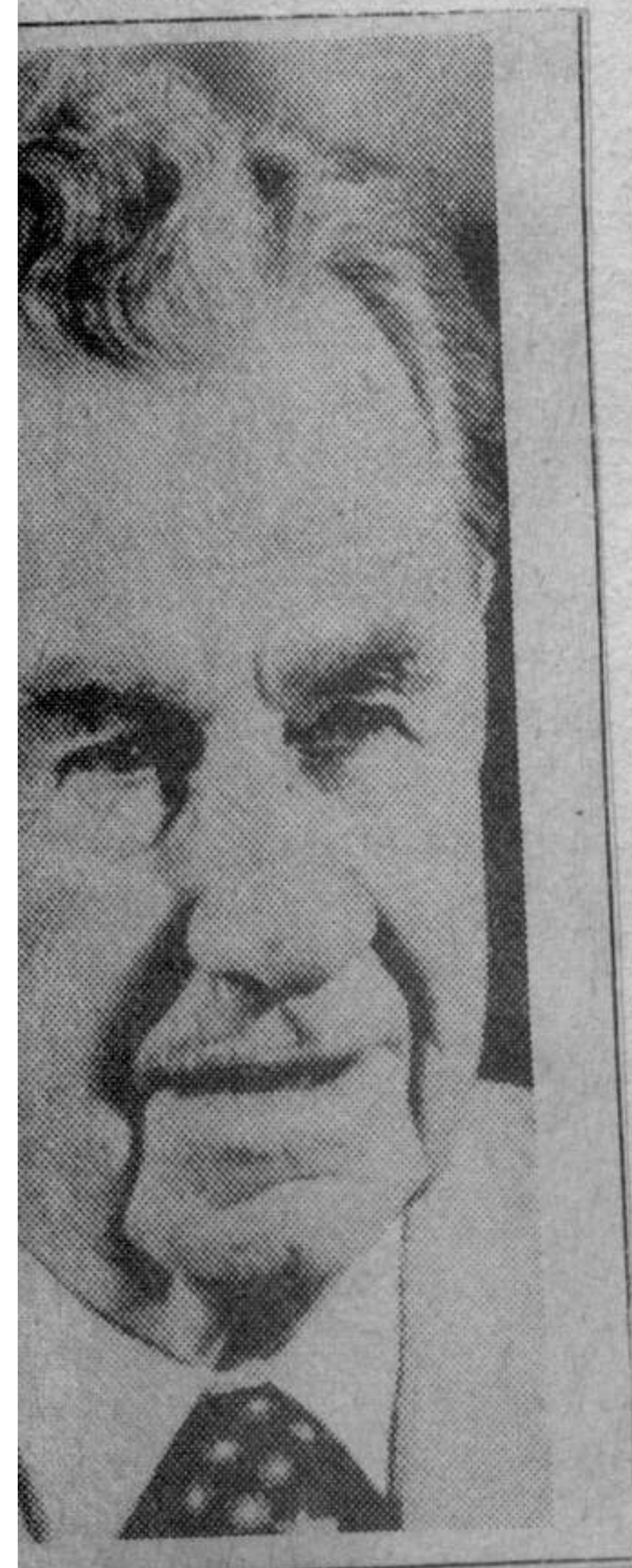


Mrs. Portie Hamrick  
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Her children are, Mrs. England, Mrs. Mabyne Christie of Renick, Mrs. Ann Maynard of Scott Depot, Mrs. Sophie Knight and Mrs. Ruth Gall, both of Colorado, K. J. of Renick, Kruger of Baltimore, Md., and

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Hubert A. Lewis, Post Office Clerk at the Hillsboro Post Office, retired March 30, 1973, after 23 years service. He was honored with a party Thursday evening at the post office.

Punch and cookies were served after which a gift was presented to him by Mrs. Priscilla Sheets, Post Office Clerk, and William D. Workman, Postmaster. Also a letter of recognition was presented to him for his outstanding and faithful service by the Postmaster.

Present were Clarence Dorman, retired Postmaster of Beard, and Mrs. Dorman, Mrs. Priscilla Sheets, Post Office Clerk, and Mr. Sheets, Winters Rose, Star Route Carrier, and Mrs. Rose, Robert Taylor, Post Office Clerk, Lloyd Payne, William D. Workman, Postmaster, and Mrs. Workman.

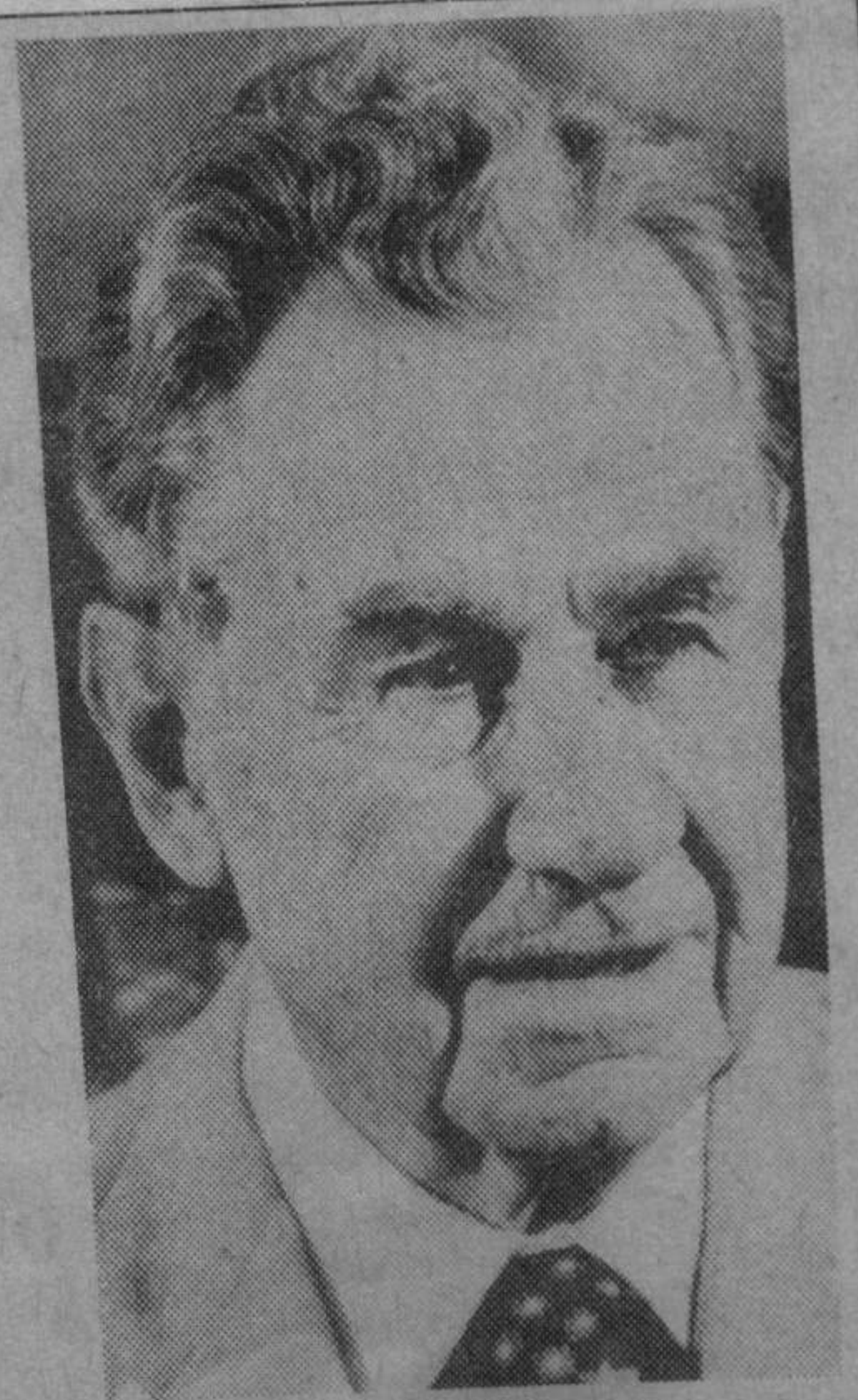
Front, left to right, Hubert A. Lewis, Mrs. Priscilla Sheets, Bert Sheets.  
Back, Lloyd Payne and William D. Workman, Postmaster.

## Finale

Lowell Thomas, the globetrotting newsman who has broadcast from untold exotic locales, taped his final radio broadcast Friday in his New York City office. Thomas, 84, is retiring after 46 years on radio to concentrate on other activities.

(AP Wirephoto)

May, 14, 1976



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# Companion of two slain women surfaces after learning of deaths

By Mihaly Olah  
STAFF WRITER

The traveling companion of the two slain rainbow women was found alive Wednesday in Connecticut after she telephoned a West Virginia newspaper office and asked for information about her two friends, authorities said.

The woman was identified as Liz Johndrow, early 20's, of Vermont. She was prompted to call the *Pocahontas Times* in Marlinton Wednesday after a friend telephoned her from Oregon Monday night at her father's house in Northford, Conn. The friend told her about the deaths of Vicki Durham, 26, and Nancy Santomero, 19, Ms. Johndrow said in a telephone interview.

"She thought I was dead and said she was glad to hear my voice but had some bad news for me. I was shocked. I had no idea that anything like this could happen to two such wonderful people," Ms. Johndrow said.

The paper took her phone number and gave it to Cpl. G.W. Hott of the state police who called her 2 p.m. Wednesday. Hott said at the present time there is no need for Ms. Johndrow to come to West Virginia. He also said that there have been no new developments or leads in the investigation.

Ms. Johndrow, the object of an extensive search in West Virginia, received another shock when she called the newspaper for information concerning her friends. "I had

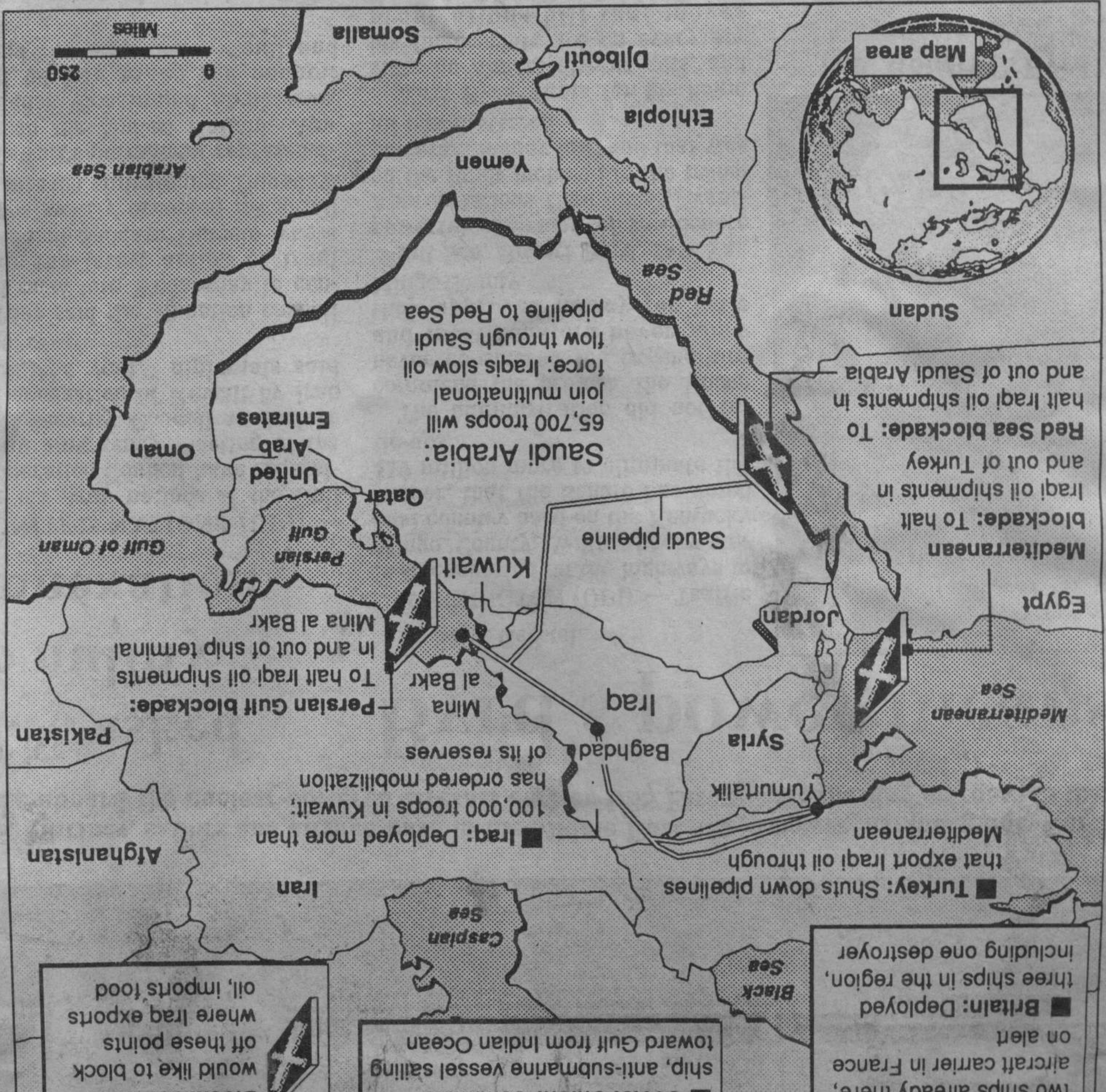
no idea that I was part of the information and that people had been looking all over for me," she said.

Ms. Johndrow said she last saw her two companions at a truck stop outside Richmond, Va., about 1 p.m. June 25.

"I had this feeling in Virginia to call my father," she said. "I called him and found out he was getting married in three days and headed back to Vermont for his wedding.

"We decided to part at the truck stop and I left them on the ramp leading to the highway while I went into the building to get a drink of water. When I came back, they were gone. I didn't know they would be dead a few hours later.

SOURCE: U.S. Army, Center for Defense Information, "The Military Balance," news reports





John Porcella and Johnny Joe Walkup III

## \$1,200 Raised By Spring Creek Festival

Thinking of a way to help working people, John Porcella and Johnny Joe Walkup III were the original organizers of the Spring Creek Festival, a landmark event held last summer.

The event, held last weekend of the 10th, 11th and 12th brought over a thousand people to hear a wide variety of music and, as a benefit, to raise money for local needs. The festival's primary purpose was to raise sufficient funding to build a complete

windmill-powered irrigation system for a drought-stricken African village.

Planning for the festival began last Fall, before the popular song "We Are the World" was released and the "Live Aid" program was broadcast.

Barbara Walkup offered 30 acres of her property on Brownstown Road. The local business and the Greenbrier Folk and Dance Club were early sponsors. Important donations of time and resources were made by the Renick Fire Department, the Northern Greenbrier Food Pantry and Rescue Squad, area churches, as well as by over 100 musicians and dozens of volunteers and area banks.

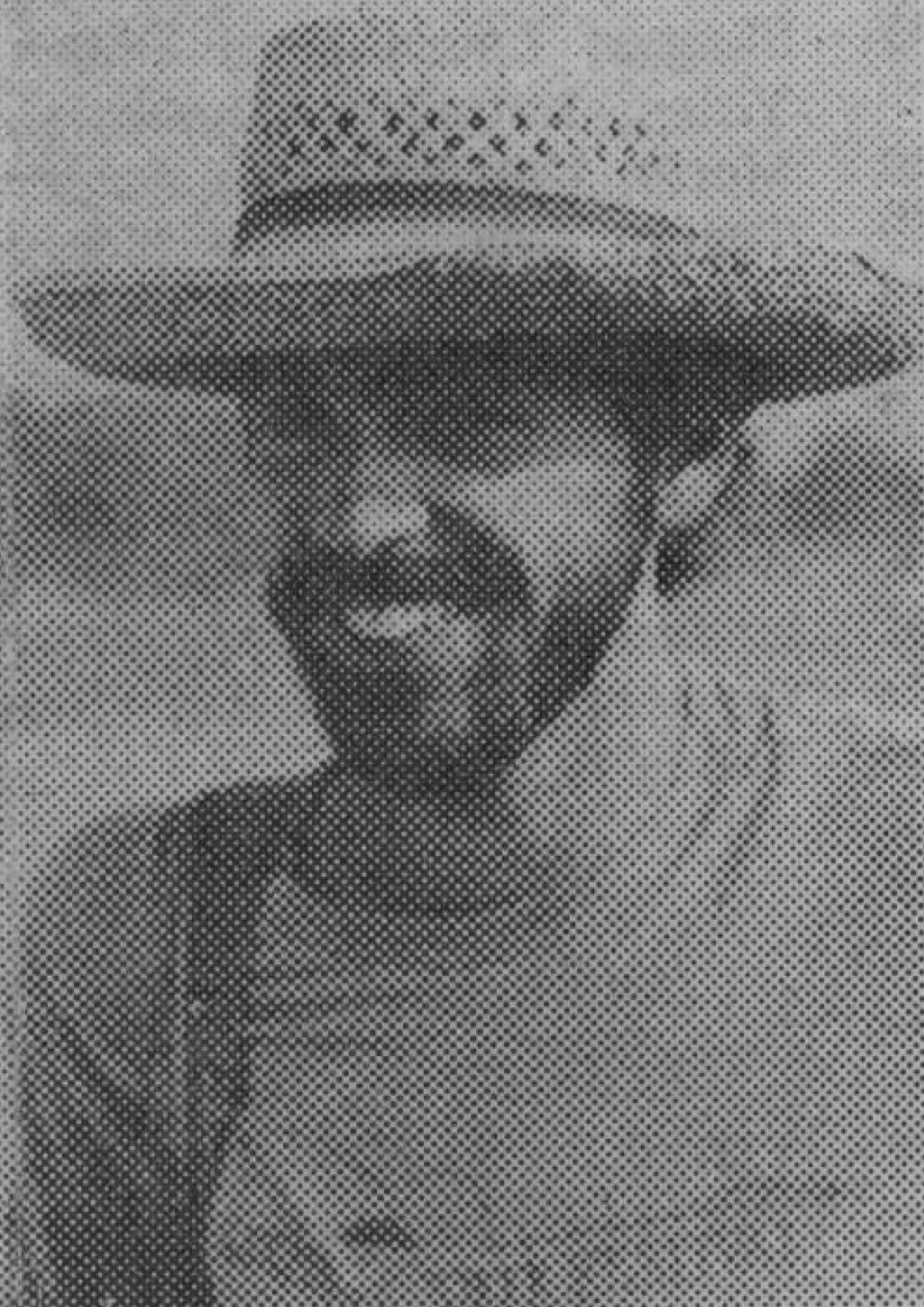
Church World Service, a reputable international relief organization, assured the Festival's organizers that, for a designated project, the windmill, 100 percent of all monies raised would be applied without administrative fee.

The organizers felt a cultural benefit was needed. The problem of drought-stricken areas is still acute, and Porcella and Walkup felt it was important to raise awareness of the problem through the festival.

June 1987

A walk-in business with a lot of cash on hand. The owner, who is a local resident, has been in the business for many years. The business is located in a prime area and has a lot of potential for growth. The owner is looking for a buyer who is willing to pay a fair price for the business and its assets.





John Porcella and Johnny Joe Walkup III

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The sunny August weekend of the 9th, 10th and 11th brought over a thousand people together to hear a wide variety of music and, as a benefit, raised \$1200 for local food needs and sufficient funding to build a complete

windmill powered irrigation system for a drought stricken African village.

Planning for the Festival began last Fall, before the popular song "We Are the World" was released and the "Live Aid" program was broadcast.

Barbara Walkup offered 57 acres of her property on Brownstown Road. The Renick Ruritans and the Greenbrier Folk and Dance Club were early sponsors. Important donations of time and resources were made by the Renick Fire Department, the Northern Greenbrier Food Pantry and Rescue Squad, area churches, as well as by over 130 musicians and dozens of merchants and area banks.

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The enthusiasm for a cultural benefit addressing the problem of world hunger is still high. John Porcella and John Walkup are already planning the coordination of volunteer effort for Spring Creek Festival '86.

## Receives award

Nancy Lee Ford, daughter Zella and the late B. Frank Ford Lewisburg, has been awarded R.L. Brown Student Achievement Award at the University of Pittsburgh. Nancy will represent the students of Southwestern District Pennsylvania physical therapy at the 63rd annual American Physical Therapy Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas June 26-July 2.

The R.L. Brown award is based on involvement in the physical therapy profession in the field scholarship, leadership communication skills.

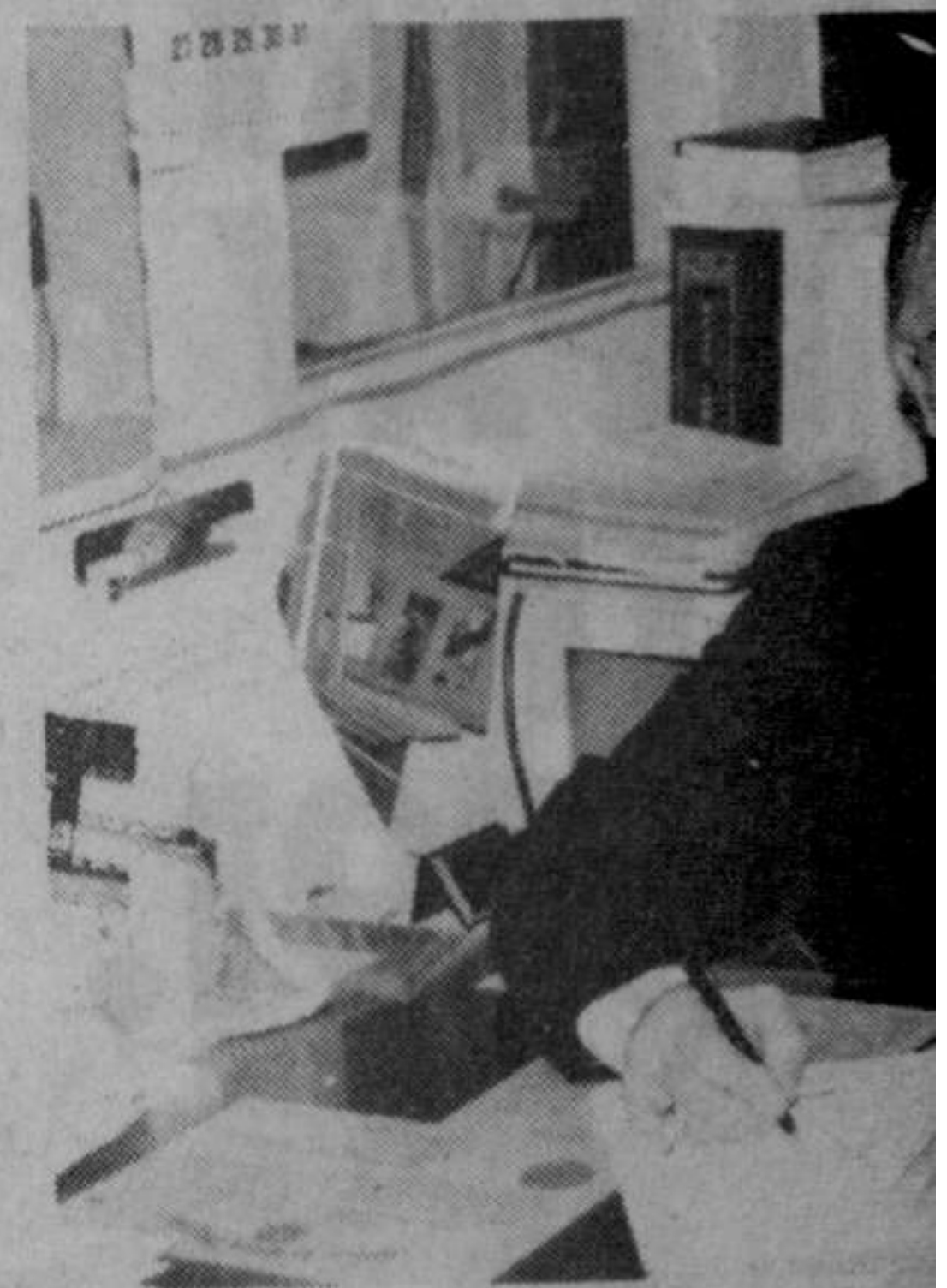
Nancy is a senior at University of Pittsburgh, is president of the 1988 physical therapy class and is a representative to the Department Advisory Committee meeting. She recently attended Pennsylvania's Physical Therapy

June 1987

## Colonial Ford

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I would like to take the business and friendship with Colonial Ford-Linc. I invite you to come for the same good service, same care of your automotive after hours 497-2118 or



## Storm of the Century

Last weekend's blizzard was right on schedule as projected by the National Weather Service—the weathermen themselves said they didn't believe it would so happen this late in the season. Air from the gulf, heavy with moisture, struck the cold air from the north, and an extremely low pressure area produced tornadoes in Florida, hurricane winds up the coast, and blizzards in the whole eastern United States. Twenty-two states were affected and the storm was compared to a storm in March of 1888.

Pocahontas barometer readings set a record low of 28.6.

The fine snow began Friday night and by Saturday morning there was serious snow—and it snowed all day and all night. The wind blew, roaring on the mountains. It was hard to measure the drifting snow.

James Schaffner, at Seneca State Forest, recorded 23.1 inches of snow for the weekend storm total. On Tuesday morning it was down to 19 inches with a snowmelt of 3.01. The bottom 4 inches are ice granules; with 1/2 inch rain predicted he doesn't think there will be much runoff. Snowfall was recorded 11 days up to March 15, with 34.1 inches of snow. The previous highest monthly snowfall was February 1974 with 37.9 inches. The wind at Seneca was clocked at 21 mph Friday night and 25 mph Sunday morning.

At Snowshoe the winds were extremely strong, with gusts up to 80 mph. Their total snowfall last week was reported to be 59 inches. They are still digging out cars.

Road crews worked steadily, end loaders worked in town, plus tractors and trucks with snowblades went into action, and Pocahontas recovered better than most places. There was no school on Monday but by Tuesday students were back. It was reported that ours was the only system in the state back in operation on Tuesday.

Pocahontas residents were blessed with electricity. Only in the Green Bank area was there an outage for a few hours, due to a tree falling across the line.

The strong wind Saturday night blew down a barn belonging to Albert Wilfong and killed 25 head of cattle. The 30 x 65 ft. barn, located on the Pansy Shinaberry farm, had about 2,000 square bales of hay, and a bull and 26 three-year-old heifers. Two may live. The barn collapsed during the night and wasn't discovered until Sunday afternoon. Many neighbors hurried to help uncover the cattle.

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## Winter Rescues

Several people came to Pocahontas County last week with plans of enjoying an early spring weekend in the mountains. Instead they had to be rescued from the worst snowstorm to hit the county in a number of years.

Early Saturday morning Junior Hamons was contacted by Conservation Officer Doshie Webb to see if he could get to a man known to be camping with two others at Tea Creek to respond to an emergency message. Mr. Hamons and Delbert Sharp drove as far as possible and then went by Mr. Hamons' snowmobile the last four miles to Tea Creek. A total of five men were found when they arrived.

The man needing to make contact with his family was gotten out about 11 a.m. After making his call he went back with Mr. Hamons, Mr. Sharp, and Denver Hamons to bring the other men from Tea Creek. A second snowmobile was now available. Fighting worsening snow conditions, drifts up to 14 feet, and near zero visibility, the group reached a cabin just above the Howard Mullens home about 11 p.m. owned by a friend of the Sharps. The night was spent there with heat but little food.

A Division of Highways crew began opening the Williams River Road Sunday morning. They had to start at Edray as the road was closed to Rt. 219. After four to five hours the cabin and the eight men were reached about 3 p.m.

Saturday evening Andy Gibson took his snowmobile and tried to get to Tea Creek to help bring the men out. However, by 9:30 p.m. he had made it only as far as the Williams River bridge and had to turn back.

On Tuesday Marvin Doss took his bulldozer to Williams River to open up the road so the camping equipment could be brought out. He was accompanied by Mr. Sharp and USFS employee Chris Rao.

On Friday a group of three adults and two children from Jackson, Ohio, took their horses for a weekend camping trip in the Cranberry Back Country. Their concerned families notified local officials. Efforts on Saturday to get in with a snowmobile and road equipment were not successful. The Department of Natural Resources provided its helicopter Sunday to help the Sheriff's Department look for the group. Deputy Sheriff Craig Doss joined the DNR pilot in the search.

The search was unsuccessful on Sunday but got underway again first thing Monday morning. About 11 a.m. the five were found about nine miles below the gate on the Cranberry River Road. The two children, ages 13 and 12, were taken out on the helicopter. They were checked out at the hospital and were fine. The adults stayed on the ground and walked out with the horses. They got out about 6:30 p.m.



## Stella Totten recalls the C

Anna M. Dillon, of Columbus, Ohio, sent the Pocahontas County Historical Society a photograph and history of the Grimes School. Mrs. Dillon obtained the picture and information on the school from her mother, Stella Grimes Totten, a former student at the school.

The Grimes Schoolhouse was located on Tilda Creek, fork of Stamping Creek. Today, if you travel route 39 west from Mill Point, you would arrive at Tilda Creek road a little over a mile on the left. The history of Pocahontas County, W.Va - 1981, page 99, states: The schoolhouse was "built about 1894. Closed in 1937."

Stella Faye Grimes Totten, daughter of James Bryson Grimes and Luvary Frances Johnson Grimes, (1988) living in Kissimmee, Florida, talked about the Grimes School and the role her family had in its formation.

She said that her grandparents, Allen D. Grimes, (1828-1888) and Sarah Jane Silva Grimes were instrumental in the formation of the school to educate their children. With the help of the neighborhood families, this dream came about. When James Bryson Grimes (1861-1951) took over the family farm on Tilda Creek, he carried on his father's enthusiasm for education.

Mrs. Totten named some of the families she remembered being involved: Grimes, Carpenter, Scott, Rose, Auldridge, Hefner, Thompson, Hooks and Davis. The participating families paid room and board for the teacher; and the men supplied the firewood to heat the school's potbelly stove. Water used at the school was carried by bucket from the Grimes family spring.

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In the Grimes Family history compiled by Anna Mary Dillon, (page 69) Mrs. Totten says: "We would start to school in the first of the year and attended six months. My first school teacher was Nina Auldridge. She was a redhead and we all loved her. She started studying from the Bible. There were eight grades in the room. We were each assigned a desk. The boys were on one side of the room and the girls on the other. When our teacher called the roll, we would all go up front and sit on long benches to recite our lessons. I walked to school just a short distance. My mother, Hester Grimes Rose, was a teacher at one time. She was paid \$1.00 a month. It was called the Grimes Schoolhouse."

There was a footbridge over the creek made of half logs used when we went to school. I remember my Dad coming along the creek across from the school. He yelled for us to get home. The water in the creek was getting high. We all scurried home. As I stepped on the footbridge, it sank down about six inches under the water. I did not have any time getting across. The next morning the bridge was gone. We missed school that day.

Page 49, The Grimes Family history building at one time was used for church services. Just as in the division of the sexes common on Sunday, the men on one side of the room and the women on the other."

The teachers that Mrs. Totten remembered were: Nina Auldridge, Carl Bruffey, Ulrick Grimes, Hester Grimes Rose, and Buckley.